

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 017163

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, UY

SUBJECT:TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR ABA MISSION VISIT TO
URUGUAY

REFS: STATE 290421; MONTEVIDEO 5819

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF YOUR REPLY TO OUR QUERY REGARDING
THE PROPOSED AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION MISSION, BILL BUTLER
REVISED HIS PLANS ACCORDINGLY AND HAS NOW PROVIDED THE DESK
WITH THE FOLLOWING DETAILS ON THE ABA MISSION PLANS.

2. BUTLER WILL HEAD A TWO-MAN MISSION, WHICH TECHNICALLY
WILL BE SPONSORED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF THE BAR OF THE CITY
OF NEW YORK. IT WILL BE FUNDED BY PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS IN-
CLUDING, ACCORDING TO BUTLER, THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION.
THE MISSION WILL CARRY STRONG LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT AND
SUPPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ABA, WILLIAM B.SPANN, JR.

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AND CONGRESSMAN FRASER. BUTLER NOTED THAT CONGRESSMAN
FRASER HAS ALWAYS AGREED TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS AFTER EACH
OF BUTLER'S MISSIONS. THE SECOND MEMBER OF THE MISSION WILL
BE LUIS REQUE, THE PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE C
IAHRC. ACCORDING TO BUTLER, WHO CHECKED THIS POINT, REQUE
IS FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT.

3. THE MISSION WILL HAVE A LIMITED AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE, WHICH IS TO INQUIRY INTO THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY AND OF LAWYERS RIGHT TO PROVIDE COUNSEL. BUTLER AND REQUE WILL SEEK TO DETERMINE WHETHER LAWYERS HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED SOLELY BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN PERFORMING PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CLIENTS ACCUSED UNDER THE NATIONAL SECURITY LAWS. THEY WILL BRING A LIST OF FOUR LAWYERS BELIEVED TO BE IN PRISON FOR THIS REASON, BUT HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT AS MANY AS TWENTY-ONE LAWYERS MAY HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. THE FOUR NAMES ARE RODOLFO SCHURMANN PACHECO AND JUAN JOSE FRAGA AMOROSO (REPORTED IN MONTEVIDEO 5720 AND PREVIOUS), PLUS A DR. BIASCO AND DR. FABBRI.

4. THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF THE MISSION WILL BE TO SEEK THE RELEASE OF LAWYERS WHO MAY HAVE BEEN ARRESTED UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, PENDING THEIR TRIALS. BUTLER STATED THAT HIS MISSION WILL NOT TRY TO GENERATE PUBLIC PRESSURE AND IS PREPARED TO CONDUCT THE ENTIRE VISIT IN A QUIET MANNER, HOWEVER AS NOTED PREVIOUSLY, BUTLER CAN BE EXPECTED TO TESTIFY AT A HEARING CONDUCTED BY CONGRESSMAN FRASER ON THE RESULTS OF THE MISSION. HE HAS REQUESTED THAT THE EMBASSY FURNISH A LIST OF SUGGESTED APPOINTMENTS PRIOR TO THE TRIP FOR THE MISSION'S REVIEW.

5. BUTLER STATED THAT THE MISSION WILL COME TO WASHINGTON
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AT THE CONVENIENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR A BRIEFING PRIOR TO THE TRIP. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE MISSION PLAN TO COME WHEN AMBASSADOR PEZZULLO IS IN WASHINGTON FOR THE CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING IN LATE FEBRUARY.

6. THE TENTATIVE DATES FOR THE MISSION CALL FOR ARRIVAL IN MONTEVIDEO ON MARCH 13 FROM BUENOS AIRES, WITH DEPARTURE ON MARCH 17. THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO COMMENT AS TO WHETHER THESE DATES WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOU, AND WHETHER ANY PROBLEM CONCERNING THE MISSION VISIT MIGHT BE ANTICIPATED. CHRISTOPHER

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